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B, 11 capability to withstand compression in response to recoil of the wall of the vessel or tract  
12 following deployment.

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1 ~~65. (Amended) A balloon-expandable stent for deployment in a patient's vessel, tract~~  
2 ~~or duct to maintain an open lumen therein, comprising an open-ended elongate tube having~~  
3 ~~a generally circumferential solid wall, a multiplicity of interconnected curvilinear struts~~  
4 ~~formed in the wall of said tube and thereby defining a multiplicity of through-holes in said~~  
5 ~~wall, each of said through-holes being bounded completely by struts; each of said struts having~~  
6 ~~an oval cross-section with a short diameter corresponding substantially to the thickness of said~~  
7 ~~wall, whereby to enhance the longitudinal flexibility of the stent, ease advancement of the stent~~  
8 ~~through a lumen of the vessel, tract or duct for deployment at a target site therein, protect the~~  
9 ~~balloon of a balloon catheter when the stent is tightly crimped thereon for advancement or~~  
10 ~~expanded therefrom by inflation of the balloon, and enhance expansion of the stent during~~  
11 ~~deployment while maintaining its capability to withstand compression in response to recoil of~~  
12 ~~the wall of the vessel, tract or duct following deployment of the stent as a scaffold in support~~  
13 ~~thereof. --~~

Cancel claims 62, 63, 66 and 67

#### REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 65, in part to overcome the rejection of claims 65-68 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. It is believed the relevant portion of the amendment is self-explanatory in that regard.

Claims 61 and 65 have been amended to further define applicant's invention and distinguish it from the prior art of record. Claims 61-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alfidi et al US 3,868,956 (Alfidi), and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fontaine (US 5,370,683) in view of Alfidi or over Klein (US 5,593,442) in